

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A siding system, for use by a user with a support structure having an upper portion and a lower portion, for protecting the support structure from damaging environmental effects, comprising a plurality of substantially identical siding assemblies, wherein while being deployed to cover the support structure, the plurality of siding assemblies are arranged in a series, wherein the next higher of any two siding assemblies of the series is attached to the support structure at a position which is closer to the upper portion of the support structure, and wherein the next lower of any two siding assemblies of the series is attached to the support structure at a position which is closer to the lower portion of the support structure, each siding assembly comprising:

a wall bracket having an attachment plate having a top, a bottom, a first side, a second side, a front surface, and a rear surface, wherein said attachment plate is selectively attachable to the vertical support structure, said attachment plate having a flange which projects outward from its front surface for selectively engaging the next higher siding assembly in the series, said flange is substantially cylindrical and extends longitudinally between the first and second side, said wall bracket having an outwardly projecting lip extending partially downward from the front surface of the attachment plate

at an acute angle to the attachment plate, said lip extending at least partially between the first and second sides of the attachment plate at a position between the top and the bottom of the attachment plate, thereby forming a tab engagement channel; and

an associated siding panel, selectively attachable to its own wall bracket and to the wall bracket of the next lower siding assembly in the series, said siding panel having a front surface, a rear surface, a top, a bottom, a top edge, a bottom edge, and a locking tab in proximity to its top edge for selectively engaging the tab engagement channel of its associated wall bracket, wherein the locking tab extends at least partially between the sides of the top of the panel, and wherein the bottom edge of the panel has an inwardly extending substantially cylindrical and substantially hollow channel having an opening, wherein said siding panel is selectively attached to the wall bracket of the next lower siding assembly in the series by snapping the channel onto the flange of said wall bracket by the user pushing the bottom edge of the panel toward the wall bracket, wherein after selective attachment of the plurality of siding assemblies to the support structure, the siding panels of adjacent siding assemblies in the series are arranged in a head-to-tail series, wherein the top of each siding panel substantially abuts the bottom of the next siding panel in the series, and wherein the top of each panel is more proximal to the upper portion of the support structure, and the bottom of each

panel is more proximal to the lower portion of the support structure.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The siding assembly as recited in claim 1 2, wherein the tab engagement channel is substantially triangular, and wherein the locking tab that selectively engages the tab engagement channel is substantially triangular.

4. (original) The siding assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the lip of the wall bracket is substantially rectangular.

5. (original) The siding assembly as recited in claim 4, wherein the attachment plate has at least one opening extending fully between the front surface and the rear surface, wherein the wall bracket is selectively attached to the support structure by placing the rear surface of the attachment plate flush against the support structure, by extending a nail into each of the at least one openings, and by driving the at least one nail into the support structure.

6. (original) The siding assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the siding panel is substantially constructed from a material selected from aluminum and vinyl.

7. (original) The siding assembly as recited in claim 6, wherein the wall bracket is substantially constructed from a strong, durable metal.

8. (original) The siding assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the siding panel has a substantially horizontal segment extending inwardly toward the support structure, and also a channel attachment piece extending upwardly from the horizontal segment, wherein the channel is attached to the bottom edge of the panel by the channel attachment piece, and by the substantially horizontal segment.

9. (original) The siding assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the siding panel is a substantially rectangular double lap siding panel having an upper flap, a lower flap, and a lateral fold which segments the panel into the upper flap and the lower flap, wherein each of the flaps has a front surface, a rear surface, and two opposing sides.

10. (original) The siding assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein after selective attachment of the siding assembly to the support structure, the rear surface of the upper flap and the rear surface of the lower flap do not substantially contact the support structure, and wherein each of the flaps forms an acute angle with the vertical support structure, thereby providing a siding assembly more capable of protecting the support structure from damaging environmental effects.

11. (original) The siding assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the siding panel is a single lap panel having no fold, wherein the front surface of the panel comprises one continuous substantially planar surface, and wherein after selective attachment of the siding assembly to the support structure, the front surface of the panel extends downward from the vertical support structure at an acute angle to the support structure, thereby providing a siding assembly more capable of protecting the support structure from damaging environmental effects.

12. (original) A method of installing a siding system upon a support structure having an upper portion and a lower portion, using a plurality of substantially identical siding assemblies for at least partially covering the support structure, each of said siding assemblies having a wall bracket having an attachment plate having a front surface and a rear surface, said attachment plate having a flange which projects outward from its front surface, said wall bracket having an outwardly projecting lip extending partially downward from the front surface of the attachment plate at an acute angle to the attachment plate, thereby forming a tab engagement channel, said siding assembly also having an associated siding panel, said siding panel having a front surface, a rear surface, a top, a bottom, a top edge, a bottom edge, and a locking tab in proximity to its top edge, wherein the bottom edge of the panel has an inwardly extending substantially hollow channel having an opening, and wherein after selective attachment to the

support structure, the top of each panel is more proximal to the upper portion of the support structure, and the bottom of each panel is more proximal to the lower portion of the support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

assembling the first siding assembly to be attached to the support structure by attaching the siding panel of the first siding assembly to its associated wall bracket by engaging the locking tab positioned in proximity to the top edge of the siding panel with the tab engagement channel of the wall bracket;

attaching the rear surface of the attachment plate to the support structure, with the top of the attachment plate more proximal to the upper portion of the support structure;

assembling the next siding assembly in the series, in the same manner in which the first siding assembly was assembled;

attaching said next siding assembly in the series to the first siding assembly by engaging the channel located in proximity to the bottom of the panel of said next siding assembly with the flange of the wall bracket of the first siding assembly;

attaching the wall bracket of said next siding assembly in the series to the support structure; and

repeating the steps of assembling a given siding assembly and attaching the siding assembly to the previously attached siding assembly and the support structure, until the support structure is at least partially covered by the siding assemblies.

13. (original) The method of installing a siding system as recited in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

removing the panels as they become damaged by pulling the bottom of the damaged panel away from the support structure and thereby disengaging the channel of the damaged panel from the flange of the wall bracket of the next lower siding assembly in the series, and by disengaging the locking tab positioned in proximity to the top edge of the damaged panel from the tab engagement channel of its associated wall bracket; and

selectively attaching an undamaged siding panel to the wall bracket associated with the damaged panel and to the wall bracket of the next lower siding assembly in the series, by first engaging the locking tab of the undamaged panel with the tab engagement channel of the wall bracket associated with the damaged panel, and then by engaging the channel of the undamaged panel with the flange of the wall bracket of the next lower siding assembly, by pushing the bottom of the panel towards the support structure.

14. (original) The method of installing a siding system as recited in claim 13, wherein the attachment plate has at least one opening

extending fully between the front surface and the rear surface of the attachment plate, wherein the step of attaching the wall bracket to the support structure comprises attaching the wall bracket to the support structure by placing the rear surface of the attachment plate flush against the support structure, by extending a nail into each of the at least one openings, and by driving the at least one nail into the support structure.